

RESNET 2005 Annual Report

Background

The Residential Energy Services Network, Inc. (RESNET) is a membership driven, not-for-profit corporation. RESNET's mission is to ensure the success of the building energy performance certification industry, set the standards of quality and increase the opportunity of high-quality building ownership.

RESNET supports its mission through two principle goals:

- Setting the standards for quality of rating services thereby enhancing the credibility of ratings to consumers, lenders, the housing industry, government agencies, and utilities
- Providing the tools to help home energy raters succeed in becoming profitable businesses

RESNET is guided by a Board of Directors whose membership includes representatives from the entire home energy rating industry.

2005 RESNET Officers:

President – Philip Fairey, Florida Solar Energy Center
Vice President – David Goldstein, Natural Resources Defense Council
Treasurer – Thomas Hamilton, California Home Energy Efficiency Rating System
Secretary – Kelly Parker, Guaranteed Watt Saver Systems
Past President – David Wilson, Energy Rating Homes of Utah

Other members of the RESNET Board of Directors:

Ben Adams, MaGrann Associates
Eric Borsting, ConSol
Megan Edmunds, E-Star Colorado
Richard Faesy, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
Tracy Fogelsong, EnerCal Nevada
Bruce Harley, Conservation Services Group
Michael Holtz, Architectural Energy Corporation
Kathy Howard, Energy Sense
Mark Jansen, Energy Efficient Homes Midwest
C.T. Loyd, The Nelrod Company
Joseph Lstiburek, Building Science Corporation

Greg Nahn, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation
Lee O'Neal, NSpects
Gayle Sampson, Mid-West Building Diagnostics
Douglas Walter, Kansas Building Science Institute
Daran Wastchak, D.R. Wastchak, LLC

2005 was the tenth anniversary of the founding of RESNET. RESNET has achieved incredible progress in its first decade. RESNET's standards are recognized by the mortgage industry, federal and state agencies and the housing industry as the foundation for verification of a home's energy performance.

The first RESNET Conference in 2001 adopted the following policy goals for RESNET:

- Passage of a federal tax credit for energy efficient new homes
- Passage of a federal tax credit for existing homes
- RESNET standards adopted for federal energy efficiency programs

In 2005 these goals were achieved with the enactment by Congress of federal tax credits for new and existing homes. In addition, RESNET's standards are recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for its Building America Program, the Environmental Protection Agency for its ENERGY STAR for Homes Program, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its energy efficient homes program.

RESNET's Priorities for 2005 Adopted by the RESNET Board of Directors

The RESNET Board of Directors adopted the following priorities for 2005 in rank order:

- I. Implement Enhancements to the National Home Energy Rating Standards**
- II. Implement Rating Quality Assurance Procedures**
- III. Develop RESNET Strategic Planning Framework**
- IV. Recruit Members of RESNET Standing Committees and Have Committees Fully Functional**
- V. Adopt and Implement RESNET Membership Recruitment Plan**
- VI. Adopt Sampling Provider Accreditation Standard**
- VII. Enter into Dialogue with the European Union on an International Protocol for Energy Ratings**
- VIII. Expand the Scope of the 2005 RESNET Conference**
- IX. Develop Recommendations for DOE and the Department of Treasury on the Rule Making for the Implementation of the Residential Energy Tax Incentives**
- X. Monitor and Advocate for Federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credits for Existing Homes**

- XI. **Develop Rating Consumer Complaint Resolution Process**
- XII. **Put RESNET National Rater Test On-Line**
- XIII. **Advocate Using Home Energy Ratings for Energy Performance Verification for Green Home Programs**
- XIV. **Monitor and Advocate for Federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credits for New Homes**
- XV. **Adopt Categories of Rater Certification**
- XVI. **Align RESNET Rater Certification with the Building Performance Institute's Certification**
- XVII. **Implement RESNET Rating Industry Leadership Awards**
- XVIII. **Launch RESNET Web Wiz On-Line Discussion Page**
- XIX. **Revise RESNET's Web Site**
- XX. **Co-Sponsor Special Issue of Home Energy Magazine on Building Performance**
- XXI. **Develop Rater Business Development Plan of Action**

This report is divided into two parts:

- RESNET's Accomplishments in 2005 – Adopted by the RESNET Board of Directors
- RESNET's Accomplishments in Addition to RESNET Board Priorities

RESNET's Accomplishments in 2005 – Adopted by the RESNET Board of Directors

RESNET achieved incredible progress in 2005. Not only did RESNET accomplish all of the priorities established by the Board for 2005, we were also able to make additional significant achievements. The following is a summary of RESNET's accomplishments for the year:

RESNET Board Priorities Accomplished:

- **Implement the 2004 Enhancements to the National Home Energy Rating Standards** – On December 23, 2004, the amendments to RESNET's Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating Standards were adopted.

The administrative enhancements went into effect on April 1, 2005. In 2005 all accredited rating providers changed their policy and procedures to comply with the new administrative requirements. These changes were documented in the 2005 applications to have their accreditation renewed. All accredited rating providers have implemented the administrative enhancements.

The technical enhancements were scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2006. The technical enhancements effective date was moved to July 1, 2006 to accommodate EPA's 2006 revisions to the ENERGY STAR Homes guidelines. To track with the EPA changes in 2005 RESNET adopted the following technical enhancements:

- ◇ Discontinue Use of the "Classic" HERS Score
- ◇ Modify the Expanded Score to Account for Total Home Energy Use
- ◇ Amend the List of Minimum Rated Features to Include the Expanded Score Items
- ◇ Update the "a" and "b" Coefficient Values
- ◇ Update the ANSI Standard Referred to in Measuring Floor Dimensions to ANSI Z765-2003
- ◇ Update mechanical ventilation specifications
- ◇ Ceiling Fan Ratings
- ◇ Specifications for Vented Crawlspace in the Reference and Rated Homes

The most significant enhancement of the 2005 amendments is the changing of the current rating score to a "HERS Index" where a score of "0" equates to a net zero energy home and a score of "100" equates to the HERS reference home. The Environmental Protection Agency will recognize the new HERS Index for the qualification of ENERGY STAR Homes.

In 2005 RESNET staff undertook an education effort to educate the rating industry on the changes and providing them with the tools to enable them to educate their clients. This was accomplished by:

- ◇ Audio training seminars for rating providers
 - ◇ Posting a resource web page for providers on educating their raters and clients on changes to the national standards
 - ◇ Development of fact sheets and a PowerPoint presentation
 - ◇ One general and 11 break out sessions at the 2005 RESNET Building Performance Conference
 - ◇ Session at the 2005 Affordable Comfort Conference
- **Implement Rating Quality Assurance Procedures** – The most significant change that affected the rating industry in 2005 was the enhanced rating quality assurance procedures that were mandated by the newly amended national rating standards. The following actions were achieved in 2005:

- ◇ Review and approving accredited rating providers' revised quality assurance procedures. All accredited rating providers now comply with the new RESNET standards.
 - ◇ Certification of 61 provider quality assurance designees through passing the RESNET Quality Assurance Designee Test.
 - ◇ RESNET staff conducting quality assurance monitoring of rating providers in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, and Nevada.
- **Develop RESNET Strategic Planning Framework** – To create a vision for the organization for the next ten years RESNET staff has developed a strategic planning framework. The first phase of the effort was a Strategic Planning Focus Group. The focus group was facilitated by David Meisegeier of ICF Consulting. Members of the focus group were:
 - ◇ Mike Baker, TXU Electric Delivery
 - ◇ Megan Edmunds, E-Star Colorado
 - ◇ Philip Fairey, Florida Solar Energy Center
 - ◇ David Goldstein, Natural Resources Defense Council
 - ◇ Thomas Hamilton, CHEERS
 - ◇ Stephanie Harmon, Progress & Associates
 - ◇ Michael Holtz, Architectural Energy Corporation
 - ◇ David Lee, Environmental Protection Agency
 - ◇ Joseph Lstiburek, Building Science Corporation
 - ◇ Kelly Parker, Guaranteed Watt Saver Systems
 - ◇ Ed Pollock, U.S. Department of Energy
 - ◇ Bill Prindle, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

The focus group developed a "large picture from 30,000 feet" of the status of the rating industry and RESNET. The group looked into the long term strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) to our organization and industry. The group developed a proposed mission, five-year vision, and major goals for the organization. The results of the focus group's deliberations served as the foundation for RESNET staff in drafting RESNET's strategic planning frame work.

The strategic planning frame work contains:

- ◇ RESNET Vision Statement
- ◇ RESNET Mission Statement
- ◇ Definition of RESNET's Services
- ◇ Strategic Opportunities
- ◇ Goals
- ◇ Process Objectives

The draft strategic planning frame work will be considered by the RESNET Board of Directors at its annual meeting at the 2006 RESNET Building Performance Conference.

- **Recruit Members of RESNET Standing Committees and Have Committees Fully Functional** – In 2004 The RESNET Board of Directors established the following RESNET standing committees:

- ◇ Quality Assurance and Ethics Committee - The committee is responsible for issuing interpretations on Chapter One of the Mortgage Industry's National Home Energy Rating Standards, oversight of RESNET's rating quality assurance program, and investigating and making recommendations on the code of ethics. Ben Adams was selected to chair the committee. Members of the committee are:

- Dave Abrey, Conservation Services Group
- John Ashe, ICF Consulting
- Douglas Beaman, Doug Beaman Associates
- Megan Edmunds, E-Star Colorado
- C.T. Loyd, The Nelrod Company
- Ethan MacCormick, TREATratings
- Greg Nahn, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation
- Lee O'Neil, NSpects
- Jonathan Passe, Environmental Protection Agency
- Robby Schwarz, BuiltWright
- Daran Wastchak, D.R. Wastchak

- ◇ Technical Committee - The committee is responsible for interpretation of technical standards, procedures and guidelines, technical evaluation of issues and programs, and continuing maintenance of technical standards. Bruce Harley was selected as the chair of the committee. Members of the committee are:

- Skye Dunning, Building Performance Specialists
- Philip Fairey, Florida Solar Energy Center
- Bion Howard, BEST
- Michael Lubliner, Washington State University
- David Meisegeier, ICF Consulting
- Jay Murdoch, North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
- Gary Nelson, Energy Conservatory
- Duncan Prah, IBACOS
- Dave Roberts, Architectural Energy Corporation
- Dennis Storer, Calcs Plus

◇ Training and Education Committee - The committee is responsible for issuing interpretations on Chapter Two of the National Home Energy Rating Standards, maintenance of the national rater test, approval of all RESNET education programs, and maintenance of RESNET rater certification categories. Kelly Parker was selected as chair of the committee. Members of the committee are:

- David Eishen, Energy Efficiency and Green Building Institute
- Ken Fonorow, Florida H.E.R.O.
- Adam Gifford, Conservation Services Group
- Mark Jansen, Energy Efficient Homes Midwest
- Tei Kucharski, Florida Solar Energy Center
- Jim Maunder, National Center for Appropriate Technology
- Neal Moyer, Florida Solar Energy Center
- Rick Simpson, California Home Energy Efficiency Rating Services
- Douglas Walter, Kansas Building Science Institute
- David Wilson, Energy Rated Homes of Utah

◇ Membership Services Committee - The committee develops plans for recruitment of members of RESNET as well as members of the Board of Directors, serves as the nominations committee for the Board of Directors, and provides policy oversight for the annual RESNET Conference. Gayle Sampson was selected as the chair of the committee. Members of the committee are:

- Tracy Fogelsong, EnerCalc
- Thomas Hamilton, California Home Energy Efficiency Rating Services
- Ken Fonorow, Florida H.E.R.O.
- Kathy Jansen, Energy Efficient Homes Midwest
- Greg Nahn, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation
- Kristin Shewfelt, E-Star Colorado

In 2005 the RESNET Board appointed all of the committee's members and all of the committees are fully functioning.

- **Adopt and Implement RESNET Rater Membership Recruitment Plan** – In 2005 the RESNET Board of Directors adopted a policy of increasing rater membership in the organization. In 2005 the RESNET Membership Services Committee adopted a rater membership recruitment plan. The plan includes:

◇ Affordable rater insurance coverage

- ◇ Free subscription to Home Energy Magazine with RESNET membership
- ◇ RESNET Rater Seal of Quality
- ◇ Listing in the RESNET Rater Directory

To improve RESNET's rater member services RESNET conducted an on-line survey of its rater members.

- **Adopt Sampling Provider Accreditation Standard** – EPA's ENERGY STAR Home Program's revised sampling protocol recognizes a RESNET accreditation standard for sampling providers. RESNET received funding from the EPA to convene a rating industry task force to make recommendations to the RESNET Board for a sampling provider accreditation standard. The task force drafted a sampling provider accreditation standard that will be incorporated into the Mortgage Industry's National Home Energy Rating Standards. The proposed new standard is undergoing the public review and comment process before being adopted.
- **Enter into Dialogue with the European Union on an International Protocol for Energy Ratings** – The European Union (EU) has targeted building energy performance as a major component of meeting its obligations under the Kyoto Climate Accord. The EU has enacted legislation, "The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive" that member states must enact requirements for rating buildings at their time of sale or change of occupancy. This action has a dramatic potential impact on setting up a protocol for carbon reduction trading and building energy savings. Clearly there are advantages to developing a dialogue between the US and Europe on building performance and energy ratings. The RESNET Board adopted the development of such a dialogue as one of the top priorities for RESNET for 2005.

To set up such a dialogue, Steve Baden and Philip Fairey were invited to present the experience of the U.S. rating effort to the European Union's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Conference in Brussels, Belgium in September. Through RESNET's participation in the conference a dialogue has been established between RESNET and its European counterparts.

In addition RESNET's representatives met with the International Energy Agency (IEA). The IEA is the international energy agency created by the developing nations. In its July 2005 meeting in Scotland, the G8 summit of developed nations adopted a policy statement that the leaders of the industrial nations concurred that climate change was an important issue and that human activity is a key cause of the climate change. President Bush agreed to the statement. The G8 has identified improving the

energy performance of buildings as a near-term priority. As part of the action the G8 tasked the IEA to review standards, codes and policies in buildings within member nations and developing countries and identify best practices and to develop energy efficiency indicators. It was agreed that there needs to be more cooperation between the U.S. and Europe on improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings. As the first step, it was agreed that RESNET and the IEA would co-host a side meeting on improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings at the 2006 ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings in August 2006. In addition, it was agreed that RESNET and the IEA would write a paper on Monetizing Energy Efficiency that would be submitted to the ACEEE for publishing and be posted on the RESNET web site.

- **Expand the Scope of the RESNET Building Performance Conference**
The RESNET Building Performance Conference is the premier national forum on home energy ratings and building performance. The 2005 conference took place in San Antonio from February 28 – March 2. The 2005 conference's scope was expanded to include special tracks for home builders and a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR track offered by Affordable Comfort. The 2005 RESNET Building Performance Conference had the largest attendance for a RESNET conference.
- **Develop Recommendations for DOE and the Department of Treasury on the Rule Making for the Implementation of the Residential Energy Tax Incentives Projects** – In 2005 Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, energy legislation that includes a federal tax credit for new homes. The new homes credit requires that site built homes must, through performance testing, exceed the International Energy Conservation Code by 50%. The U.S. Department of Energy requested that RESNET develop a recommendation for the rules for verifying compliance to the credit. RESNET developed recommendations for both a suite of tests for software programs that would be used to verify a home's energy performance and the qualifications of individuals who would conduct the compliance verification testing and inspecting. The recommendations have been accepted by the Department of Energy and Department of Treasury and are referred to in the tax credit's rule set.
- **Monitor and Advocate for Federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credits for Existing Homes** – In July 2005 Congress passed energy legislation that creates a federal tax credit for homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The existing homes tax credit is a cost based credit with a limit of \$500. RESNET had advocated a performance credit with the credit driven by how much the home's energy performance was improved. The Senate passed an existing homes credit advocated by RESNET. The Senate version was substituted with the cost based credit in conference committee.

- **Develop Rating Consumer Complaint Resolution Process** – A key element for quality assurance is a robust consumer complaint resolution process. In 2005 accredited rating providers were required to adopt a consumer complaint resolution process. RESNET staff developed a model consumer complaint process for rating providers to adopt. The RESNET Board of Directors adopted the consumer complaint resolution process to address consumer complaints against RESNET rater members.
- **Implement RESNET On-Line National Home Rater Test** – RESNET's rater certification standard requires that rater candidates pass a national rater core competency test administered by RESNET. The national home energy rating standards also require that rater trainers and quality assurance designees pass a core competency test. The rater test has a total of 50 questions and requires a score of 80% to pass. The quality assurance provider/rater trainer test has a total of 100 questions and requires a passing score of 90%. In 2005 RESNET launched two on-line national tests: a rater test and a rater quality assurance designee/rater trainer test. In 2005, 319 rater candidates took the rater test with a 69.6% passing rate, and 129 individuals took the quality assurance provider/rater trainer test with a passing rate of 46.6%.
- **Advocate Using Home Energy Ratings for Energy Performance Verification for Green Home Programs** – Green labeled homes are increasingly becoming a market force. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) have both undertaken aggressive green building programs. Both programs require an energy performance requirement. In 2005 RESNET entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with USGBC that will require home energy ratings as part of its Residential LEED requirements. USGBC also selected RESNET accredited rating providers to participate in its pilot program. NAHB's program requires compliance with ENERGY STAR which will involve certified home energy raters.
- **Advocate for Federal Tax Credit for New Energy Efficient Homes** – In July 2005 Congress passed energy legislation that included a federal tax credit for new energy efficient homes. The legislation provides a \$2,000 credit to builders for homes that exceeded the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) by 50%. RESNET had advocated a two tier credit with \$1,000 for homes that exceeded the IECC by 30% and \$2,000 for homes that exceeded the IECC by 50%. The Senate had adopted a credit as advocated by RESNET. In conference committee the 30% credit was dropped.

- **Adopt Categories of Rater Certification** – It is a goal of RESNET to create a career path for home energy raters and recognize advanced skills and certification. To develop this career path and recognition the RESNET Board created a RESNET Categories of Rater Certification Task Force. In 2005 the task force developed and the RESNET Board adopted a set of specifications and definitions of knowledge base, skill set and experience for the following categories of rater certification:
 - ◇ Rating Field Assessor
 - ◇ Certified Rater
 - ◇ Senior Certified Rater

A formal recognition of rater's certification in related fields was also adopted.

- **Align RESNET Rater Certification with the Building Performance Institute's Certification** – The Building Performance Institute (BPI) sets the standards for building performance contractors who improve the energy performance of existing homes. In 2005, BPI and RESNET reached an agreement in the following areas:
 - ◇ BPI recognition of the RESNET National Rater Test for meeting the BPI Core Test
 - ◇ Developing process for raters to qualify as BPI Professional Evaluators
 - ◇ BPI contracting with certified raters to undertake quality assurance field inspections
 - ◇ Creation of a joint RESNET/BPI Building Science Specialist certification
- **Implement RESNET Rating Industry Leadership Awards** – To recognize leadership in the rating industry the RESNET Board of Directors established Rating Industry Leadership Awards. There are three categories of the award:
 - ◇ Market Transformation Leadership Award
 - ◇ Innovation Leadership Award
 - ◇ Program Leadership Award

In 2005 the RESNET Board of Directors awarded the first set of awards to Florida H.E.R.O. (Market Transformation), Guaranteed Watt Saver Systems (Innovation), and North Carolina Fannie Mae Partnership Office (Program Leadership). The awards were presented at the 2005 RESNET Building Performance Conference.

- **Launch RESNET Web Wiz On-Line Discussion Page** – A strength of RESNET is the guidance provided on policy and program issues by its committees, task forces, and membership. To facilitate this input RESNET has launched a password protected web page that allows discussion on selected issues.
- **Revise RESNET’s Web Site** – RESNET’s web site is internationally recognized as the premier source of information on home energy ratings, residential energy efficiency financing and building performance. To make the site more user friendly RESNET updated its site to be more graphically attractive and more intuitive.
- **Co-Sponsor Special Issue of Home Energy Magazine on Building Performance** – Home Energy is the premier journal for building performance professionals. RESNET entered into a partnership with Affordable Comfort, Building Performance Institute, the Energy and Environmental Building Association, and Home Energy to offer a special edition of the publication. The issue was published in 2005 and featured the following articles on RESNET:
 - ◇ RESNET/Building Performance Institute partnership
 - ◇ RESNET enhancements to the national home energy rating standards
 - ◇ Introduction of RESNET
 - ◇ Feature on Lee O’Neal and NSpects
- **Development of Rater Business Development Plan of Action** – RESNET has two visions for the success of the rating industry. The first is setting the standards for quality of rating services thereby enhancing the credibility of the entire industry. The second is to assist raters to succeed in being profitable businesses. In 2005 RESNET staff developed a rating business development plan of action. The plan addresses:
 - ◇ Developing New Business Opportunities for Raters
 - ◇ Developing Market Differentiation Opportunities
 - ◇ Provide Infrastructure Support
 - ◇ Providing Timely Information: Trends and Applications
 - ◇ Creating a “Good Housing Keeping Seal” through Quality Assurance

RESNET Accomplishments in Addition to Board Priorities

- **Negotiated Consensus with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on ENERGY STAR for Homes 2006 Guidelines** – In February 2005 EPA announced a proposed set of changes for 2006 in the ENERGY STAR for Homes guidelines that would in essence do away with the rating

score in the labeling of ENERGY STAR homes. The proposed changes were motivated by the wide adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code over the Model Energy Code and the new minimum federal air conditioner manufacturing standards. RESNET developed a set of friendly amendments aimed at maintaining the rating score and making the changes more acceptable in the market place. In April, representatives of the RESNET Board of Directors met with EPA staff and negotiated a consensus compromise. EPA went through two public review and comment processes and has adopted a set of new guidelines that achieves EPA's goals while being workable for builders, program sponsors and the rating industry.

- **Conversion from HERS Score to HERS Index** – With the amending of the national home energy rating standards to change the reference home from the Model Energy Code to the International Energy Conservation Code and expansion of the rating method to include lighting, appliances, and on-site energy production it was no longer possible to compare rating scores from the old standards to the new. This presented an opportunity to change the scoring method that would be more intuitive to raters, builders, and consumers. In 2005, RESNET amended the national rating standards to replace the rating score with a rating index. Effective on July 1, 2006, the standards will require a rating index where “0” will represent a home that uses no energy and “100” will represent the American standard home (HERS reference home).
- **Entering into Partnership with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to Research the Correlation Between Rating Scores and the Various Versions of the National Energy Codes** – In 2004 a robust performance option was added to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). In addition, the IECC recognized home energy ratings as a compliance option. This has resulted in a trend of states incorporating home energy ratings into their state energy codes. To date, 16 states reference home energy ratings as a code compliance option. To increase this trend and make it easier for local code officials to be comfortable with recognizing rating scores for code compliance RESNET is partnering with the Pacific Northwest Laboratory to conduct a home energy rating road mapping research project. The project will involve a modeling exercise to track home energy rating scores with the various versions of the Model Energy Code and IECC that has been adopted by states.
- **Revised Accreditation Fees to Ensure Organization Financial Stability** – RESNET has developed a new definition of what being a rater member of RESNET means. By being a member of RESNET, a rater subscribes to high standards of quality and ethics and will be recognized

as such. In return for this commitment, RESNET will provide these additional services to rater members:

- ◇ Post the rater on the RESNET web page directory of raters. As of January 15, 2005, only rater members will be listed on RESNET's web site
- ◇ A special RESNET rater member seal that shows the rater's commitment to quality
- ◇ Eligibility for the RESNET affordable business and professional liability insurance
- ◇ Free subscription to Home Energy Magazine

These efforts are already bringing in new members. At the close of 2005, 73 raters became new members of RESNET.

- **Adopted Process for Approving Applications for Rater Continuing Education-** The national home energy rating standard requires that raters complete 12 hours of continuing education every three years. The standard requires that 10 of the 12 hours be approved by RESNET. In 2005 the RESNET Training and Education Committee adopted a formal application and review process for approving training. The application process and criteria is posted on the RESNET web site.
- **Established RESNET Rater Member Seal of Quality** - In 2005 the RESNET Board of Directors adopted a new definition of what being a rater member of RESNET means. The definition of being a rater member of RESNET is that RESNET rater members subscribe to a high standard of quality and ethics and should be recognized as such. To recognize those rater members who subscribe to this principle and agree to be held accountable to RESNET by subscribing to the RESNET Code of Ethics, the RESNET Standards of Practice, financial interest disclosure, and the RESNET Rater Member Consumer complaint resolution process, RESNET has created a RESNET Rater Seal of Quality. Rater members who agree to this accountability are sent the RESNET Rater Seal of Quality for use in their business marketing materials including their web site, business cards, and brochures. In addition, RESNET posts this seal next to the rater's listing on the RESNET web site to highlight their commitment to a high standard of quality of rating services and ethics.
- **Awarded North Carolina ENERGY STAR Homes Consumer Awareness Campaign Project** – In 2004 RESNET successfully completed a project funded by the North Carolina Energy Office to create a dynamic partnership between the North Carolina Energy Office, the North Carolina Fannie Mae Partnership Office, Countrywide Home Loans, Wachovia Mortgage, and the state's rating industry. In 2005 RESNET was awarded funding to facilitate an ENERGY STAR Homes consumer

awareness campaign in the state. The project will maintain and grow the state's infrastructure of home energy raters and develop and implement a North Carolina ENERGY STAR consumer awareness campaign in 2006.

- **Habitat for Humanity Congress Building America** - Across the county, Habitat for Humanity International's Congress Building America project teams members of U.S. Congress with Habitat affiliates in their districts. Members of Congress work at the Habitat job site to learn first hand about affordable housing issues. RESNET has entered into a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program and Habitat to make the homes energy efficient. Through the partnership RESNET member raters are providing pro-bono testing and site inspection for a single Habitat house and write a letter to the congress person involved in the project. The RESNET partner also acts as Building America's representative during a house dedication or ground breaking ceremony by presenting the affiliate and the congressional member with a certificate recognizing their effort to build "energy efficient homes that will last for generations."